

OMEP-USNC

United States National Committee of Organization Mondiale pour l'Education Préscolaire

Fall 2004

President's Message

Gwen Coe

*The website has loads of interesting information about OMEP events! You can also contact our webmaster, Nancy Quisenberry, by sending her a message from our website to give her your news, thoughts and ideas. Or contact her directly at nancyq@siu.edu
Web Address:
<http://omep-usnc.org>*

This past year has been a busy and productive one for OMEP. Materials for the toy lending library were shipped and received in Haiti. Materials were prepared to provide Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) training. Region III gave two monetary awards to Dr. Jean Thompson from Washington, D.C and to Dr. Susan Miller and Jeannie Burnett from Kutztown, Pennsylvania. Dr. Thompson prepared professional posters that highlight the accomplishments of African-American educators in early childhood education. Drs. Miller and Burnett facilitated the creation of a "Sensory Garden" in London, England. The first Children's Day, November 20 was announced by the OMEP-USNC Board and coincided with the 14th anniversary of the signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of Children. Children's Day is intended to honor all children and to promote a better understanding of their needs and rights. An Activity Packet is available at www.omep-usnc.org. The International Coffee Hour and Poster Session in Chicago featured ten outstanding submissions and several authors displayed new publications. Regrettably, this year also marked the passing of 85 year old Laura Ditman, an honorary life member of OMEP-USNC.

Several new initiatives are underway. At the NAEYC meeting in November, members expressed their intent to form an Interest Forum on the NAEYC website. For more information

and to join the Interest Forum contact Gwen Coe, coe@uwplatt.edu. The most recent issue of Young Children in September, 2004, was dedicated to International Issues and several OMEP-USNC members submitted articles. OMEP-USNC and NAEYC are working collaboratively to offer an International Film Festival at the Fall 2004 NAEYC conference in Anaheim.

I enjoyed seeing many of you and our colleagues from around the world at the World Congress in Melbourne, Australia.

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*Newsletter Editor:
Lita Haddal
WI Child Care
Information Center
Send all submissions
and correspondence to
lita.haddal@dpi.state.wi.us*

Message from the Editor

Thank you to Gene Geist for editing our newsletter for the past three years.

We are especially grateful for his help in formatting our newsletter.

As the new editor, I ask for contributions from our members. Issues of interest, articles, initiatives you are involved in, or your personal experiences with international early childhood education are sought.

Continued on page 3

OMEPP members have experienced delays in receiving journals during the past year due to the transition of responsibility for the journal from Florida to Sweden. During the transition the last issue was published in Santiago, Chile by Selma Simonstein, World OMEPP President. However, as of Fall, 2003, the International Journal of Early Childhood Education will be edited in Goteborg, Sweden by Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson of Goteborg University. The co-editor will be Annabel Lewis of Eltham, England. Translation services will be provided by Colette Durand (French) and Margarita Silva Peake (Spanish). Hui Ling Chua of Singapore has accepted the post of manager for printing.

Dr. Samuelsson requests submissions on the following topics:

Multicultural issues

Children's learning and sustainable development

Recent issues in ECE

Infants and toddlers in ECE

Children's rights.

Articles should be submitted to Dr. Samuelson
at the following address;

Ingrid Pramling Samuelsson

Goteborg University

Department of Education

Box 300

SE-405 30 Goteborg

Sweden

ingridpramling@ped.gu.se

The new editorial board is seeking **reviewers** for the journal. If you are interested, please e-mail Ingrid a letter of intent and attach a short resume.



China Celebrated 100 Years

The first nursery school in China was established in 1903. On October 15, 2003, a special ceremony to commemorate the occasion took place at the People's Great Hall in Beijing. OMEP World President, Selma Simonstein, presented a lecture on the concept of childhood. Over 700 educators from all over the world attended.

Presidents Message

Continued from page 1

Kate Kolchin, a dedicated and well-known OMEP-USNC member, was recognized by our organization for her outstanding advocacy efforts on behalf of children in Melbourne.

It's going to be a GREAT year for children and for OMEP!

Gwendolyn Coe

coe@uwplatt.edu

OMEP-USNC President

Message from the Editor

Continued from page 1

Due to a mixup in mailing, many OMEP members did not receive newsletters in 2003-2004. Therefore, in this issue, news and events from the past year are readdressed. You will find a list of the officers, information regarding membership, and articles to help you reflect on improving the lives of children around the world. As an OMEP member it is important to get involved in the initiatives that OMEP supports and to initiate your own.

Our goals cannot be accomplished with just a handful of people. Do not wait for your representative to contact you. You want to make a difference or you would not be in OMEP. PLEASE step forward and lend your strength!

OMEP NEEDS YOU!

-Lita Haddal, editor

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continued on next page

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PRESS RELEASE:



“Children’s Day” Announced as A Day to Celebrate Children Nationwide

A new national holiday has been announced by the national board of the United States National Committee of OMEP. A day to honor all children and to promote a better understanding of their needs and rights as human beings, November 20th is designated to be the annual holiday date. The first Children’s Day in 2003 coincided with the 14th anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

“We’re encouraging parents, teachers, caregivers and anyone who cares about children to take part in celebrating Children’s Day,” stated Lita Haddal, an OMEP-USNC board member and child care specialist at the Wisconsin Child Care Information Center. “And we want to hear about activities that take place throughout the country.”

Activity Packets from both 2003 and 2004 are available at OMEP-USNC’s Website – www.omep-usnc.org. Included in the packets are ideas for individual or group projects to do at home, in the classroom or in the community.

“One of the exciting things about this special day is that it will be celebrated, not once a year, but every month,” adds Dorothy Sailor, chair of the OMEP-USNC Committee for Resolutions and Advocacy and a faculty member at Fullerton College in California. Thinking beyond this annual event, the Resolution and Advocacy Committee is trying to make the 20th of *each month* a special time to focus on children by having new information and children’s activities on the OMEP website under Events.

“OMEP is the only international organization working for the education of all young children at the local and global level,” stated Dr. Gwendolyn Coe, current president of OMEP-USNC and head of the Early Childhood Education Program at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. “In 1948, following the devastation of a world war, children’s advocates in Prague created an organization to recall the needs that are unique to young children.”

Today, OMEP-USNC is a non-profit organization whose membership is open to all who care for and about children. Visit www.omep-usnc.org for more information.

**Happy
20th?**

Children's Day is to be held annually on November 20. After that, on the 20th of every month, children's advocates can continue to celebrate an aspect of children's lives.

In order to accomplish this, we need input from our members. Last year we announced, "Advocates around the nation will contact public officials, write letters to the editor and op-ed columns, and convene debates about children's issues." Who are those advocates? **YOU ARE!**

In this issue, you will find materials to photocopy and distribute to your community, teachers, parents, and media regarding Children's Day.

Resolution and Advocacy Committee Goals for 2004-5

1. Promote and expand OMEP Children's Day in order to:
 - a. increase respect and improve conditions for all children,
 - b. work towards the U.S. passage of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the implementation in the classroom of some of these rights, and
 - c. increase membership by reaching potential members and providing them with something tangible on which to work.
2. Continue as OMEP members and as an organization to work to improve conditions for children in the United States and worldwide.

- ## **Resolution and Advocacy Committee Goals for 2004-5**
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 2. Continue as OMEP members and as an organization to work to improve conditions for children in the United States and worldwide.

Please send your ideas for classroom and community activities to the OMEP-USNC newsletter (contact information on page 5).

Some suggested areas of focus are education and promotion.

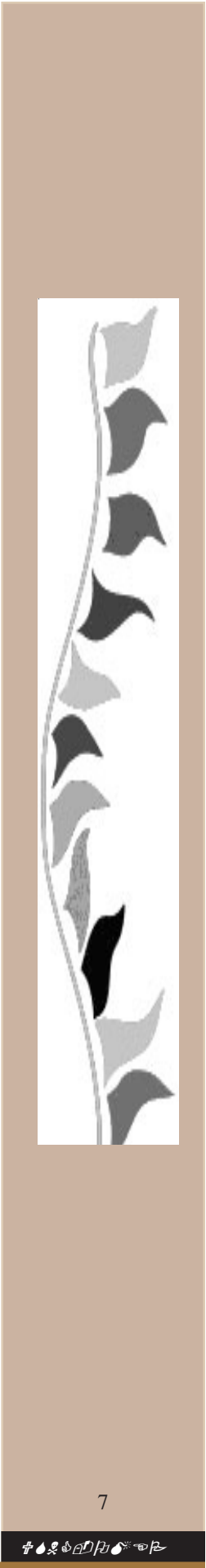
Education: Collect and adapt ideas for projects, stories, and songs to help children understand their human rights such as a right to a home, protection, health, an education, a harmonious development, and a peaceful, safe environment. These are concepts that have meaning for even the youngest of children. Ongoing projects and conversations around these issues are especially inspiring.

Promotion: Involve others. Ask other organizations to announce Children's Day in their journals, newsletters, and websites. OMEP members should take it upon themselves to assist child care and early education centers observe this day.

Murals are particularly effective projects for Children's Day both in a classroom/center and in a community setting, such as a shopping mall or park pavilion. They provide a venue for participation and discussion that invites children to depict their feelings or ideas about peace, homes, families, traditions, rituals, etc. Invite the press to report on the project. Take a picture of the children's work and let OMEP show it on our website. Consider documenting your own Children's Day celebration for a future NAEYC conference OMEP poster session.

Please let us know how you or we could put this special day on the map!

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Promoting Cultural Heritage and a Culture of Peace

Leah Adams, Regional Vice President for North American and the Caribbean

We are reminded by Colette Durand, OMEP representation to UNESCO in Paris, that this is the decade in which UNESCO is urging that we do everything possible to raise children in a culture of peace. While many parts of the world are struggling with ongoing conflict or threat of war, we can reflect on what we are doing in our own communities to help children view the world in a positive way. A Culture of Peace includes respecting and valuing the environment as well as respecting the diversity among people. UNESCO is also putting emphasis on Cultural Heritage as something that should be a source of pride for every individual.

This year our USNC has been focusing on the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) The reminder from Colette Durand about the UNESCO focus on a Culture of Peace, meshes with our efforts to implement the CRC at the local level. Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Child includes

(c) The development of respect for the child's parents, his or her own cultural identity, language and values, for the national values of the country in which the child is living, the country from which he or she may originate, and for civilizations different from his or her own;

(d) The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and



friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin.

Perhaps this a segment of the CRC that you, your students, your community, or your school are working on, without being aware of the connection. If you know of large or small efforts that are being carried out to help children develop a sense of their cultural heritage or an appreciation for the diversity of people and cultures in our world, please let us know. Have you or those you work with been engaged in a project to help children value and care for our planet? Is there an effort to preserve a historic building or artifact in your community because it represents cultural heritage for some of the residents? OMEP members are involved in many activities that relate to the goals of the World OMEP and the priorities of UNESCO. We need to know what USNC members are doing. Further, Mrs. Durand wants us to tell UNESCO. She wants to be able to report to her contacts at UNESCO what OMEP members around the world are doing to promote a Culture of Peace or to help children value their Cultural Heritage.

Please get in touch with Gwen Coe, USNC President, to let her know of efforts in your community to help children grow up in a Culture of Peace. (coe@uwplatt.edu)

Regional Report - Region III

Thirty years ago, Region III of OMEP-USNC created a special fund with monies raised by the sale of publications. By the start of the 21st century, the fund had grown to \$4,400. In 2002, Region III members voted to award 50 percent of the fund to a national early childhood project and 50 percent to an international project. Only members of Region III were eligible to apply for the grants. In 2003, an award of \$2,200 was awarded to Dr. W. Jean Simpson (national project) and to Drs. Susan Miller and Jeanie Burnett (international project).

National Award:

featured at the 2003 OMEP Poster Session and at other conferences. Copies of the poster will be available.

Drs. Susan Miller & Jeanie Burnett, Kutztown University of Pennsylvania. The award will support the “Sensory Garden” at the Bishops House Children’s Centre, London, England. The funds will provide a large amount of outdoor construction equipment and a musical sensory area. Storage facilities will be provided. Bishops House serves nearly 100 preschool children, including 10 special needs children, and is one of the first programs given the status of “Children’s Centre.” The awardees have a 10-year relationship with the Bishops House and take students to visit the program annually.

Region III Member will focus on:

- § Increase membership
- § Identify at least one activity to be carried out by each member
- § Distribute United Nations materials
- § Promote International Convention on the Rights of the Child
- § Discuss a Region III OMEP conference



"...lack of basic vitamins and minerals in the diet is damaging the health of one-third of the world's people and holding back the economic development of virtually every country in the southern hemisphere."

In Memorium

Laura Dittman, 85, Educator and Early Childhood Specialist

Laura Dittman, a leading member of the early childhood field and a significant contributor to the Region III of OMEP, died in May at home in College Park, Maryland.

Dittman, a professor emeritus at the University of Maryland, served for 16 years on the faculty of the Department of Human Development in the College of Education. She retired in 1983.

Born in Wichita and a graduate of the University of Colorado, she received a doctorate in education at Maryland.

Dittman supervised federally funded child care programs for working mothers during World War II. She also worked with blind and retarded children in the District of Columbia Department of Health. She consulted for "Foot Steps," a series of developmental psychology PBS programs for parents.

She published important documents for the Children's Bureau of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, now the Department of Health and Human Services, among them "Your Child From One to Six," and "Infant Care." From 1982 to 1993, Dr. Dittman edited the newsletter of the U.S. Committee of the World Organization for Early Childhood Education.

She is survived by two children and two sisters.

Source: The Washington Post, 31 May 2003, p. B06.

Reducing Vitamin Deficiency Can Improve World Economy

- from UNICEF web site
DAVOS, 21 January 2004 — A new report from UNICEF and the Micronutrient Initiative finds that lack of basic vitamins and minerals in the diet is damaging the health of one-third of the world's people and holding back the economic development of virtually every country in the southern hemisphere.

Few outside specialist circles are aware of what vitamin and mineral deficiency means for individuals and nations. But the report, released today at the World Economic Forum, finds that a lack of key vitamins and minerals is responsible for impairing intellectual development, compromising immune systems, provoking birth defects, and consigning some 2 billion people to lives below their physical and mental potential.

The report summarizes the findings of nutrition "damage assessment" studies in 80 nations, throwing new light on vitamin and mineral deficiency levels that are almost impossible to detect without laboratory tests.

The report finds that:

* Iron deficiency impairs mental development in young children and is lowering national IQs. It also undermines adult productivity, with estimated losses of 2 per cent of GDP in the worst-affected countries.

* Vitamin A deficiency compromises the immune systems of approximately 40% of children under five in the developing world, leading to the deaths of 1 million youngsters each year.

* Iodine deficiency in pregnancy is causing as many as 20 million babies a year to be born mentally impaired.

Serious Disparities Remain in How Well Young Children Are Prepared for School

Despite progress, the report shows that many American children remain at a serious disadvantage because they have problems with physical, social, emotional, and intellectual development that go unrecognized or untreated, creating barriers to achieving their full potential. Children from families with low incomes, low parent education levels, and children from minority households are at even greater disadvantage, says the report released today: *Early Child Development in Social Context: A Chartbook*.

“Pediatricians and other health practitioners who have regular contact with children and families are in the best position to identify developmental problems at early, more treatable stages,” says Commonwealth Fund Assistant Vice President Ed Schor, MD. “Efforts such as having child health care providers routinely screen young children for developmental problems and improving communication between those providers and others in the community who serve young children and their families are important steps toward ensuring that children get the best start in life.”

Parents' educational level, income, race, and ethnicity erect barriers that put some children at a disadvantage

- Indicators of intellectual development, such as reading and math proficiency;
- Indicators of socio-emotional development, such as behavioral self control;
- The link between good health practices and social, emotional and intellectual development of young children; and
- The effects of family function and parental health on how young children grow and develop.

The report shows that when it comes to reading and math proficiency as well as expressive language, minority students and children whose parents are less educated do not start out on equal footing with other children. For example:

- “These gaps should be raising alarms,” says Dr. Brown of Child Trends. “Early reading proficiency is strongly related to future reading ability and academic achievement. Reading deficits at an early age have been found to widen over the elementary school years, and for many kids these deficits persist throughout school and into adulthood.”

The chartbook also shows how family functioning and parental health relate to disparities in intellectual and social development at an early age. For example:

- Citing a national program called “Reach Out and Read,” the authors say that studies have shown that children with health care providers who discuss with parents the importance of reading to their young children are more likely to be read to every day.

- About one-third of children through age 3, and 43 percent of children between the ages of four and six have a television in their bedroom.

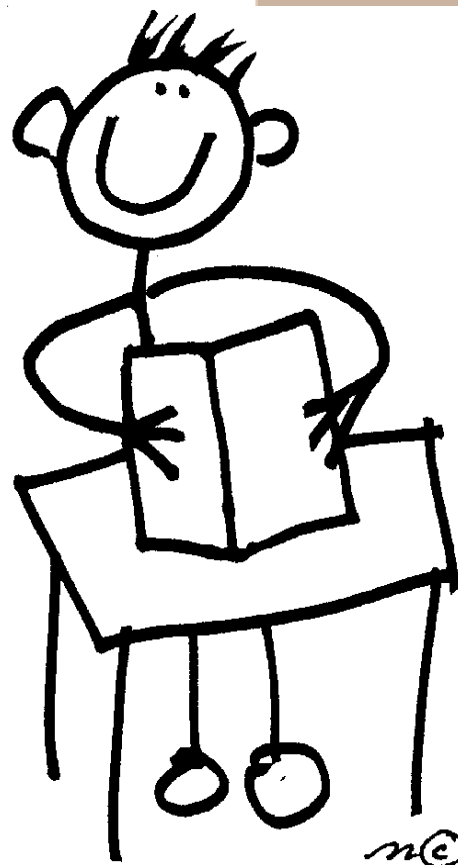
The authors say parents need to provide more structure to children, including instituting regular bedtimes and mealtimes as well as regulating the type and amount of television their young children watch.

- Kindergarteners whose parents are depressed are more likely than other kindergarteners to exhibit socio-emotional problems. Kindergarteners living in families below the federal poverty threshold are much more likely than other

- While nearly one-half of insured children between ages two and five have seen a dentist in the last year, just over one quarter (27 percent) of those without health insurance have had regular dental checkups.
- One-quarter of children with health insurance have not had a vision screen prior to entering kindergarten, while one-third of children without health insurance have not had that essential screening.

The Commonwealth Fund is a private foundation supporting independent research on health and social issues.

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OMEPP-USNC Conference Activities

NAEYC Anaheim, California

Check Final NAEYC Program for changes.

Bold=Definite Time

Italics=Approximate Time

Date	Time	Activity	Place	Contact Person
Wednesday, Nov. 10	5:30 - 9:00	Board Meeting	Hilton-Mezzanine 14	Gwen Coe coe@uwplatt.edu
Thursday, Nov. 11	9:00 - 12:00	International Film Festival Co-sponsored with NAEYC	Hilton-Mezzanine 5	Edna Ranck Edna.ranck@verizon.net Carol Darcy crdarcy@tiac.net
Thursday, Nov. 11	8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	"Making the world your community: using your earlychildhood skills globally." -Panel	Hilton-Pacific Ballroom B	Mark Ginsberg, Bonnie and Roger Neugebauer, Joan Lombardi, and Gwen Coe
Thursday, Nov. 11	1:30 - 3:30	PresentationStephany Carter- Jamaica	Anaheim Convention Center – Room 303B	Gwen Coe
Thursday, Nov. 11	4:00 - 5:00	Membership Meeting	Anaheim Convention Center – Room 303B	Gwen Coe Carol Darcy
Thursday, Nov. 11	4:30 - 6:00	Festival of Organizations	Exhibit Hall	Gwen Coe
Thursday, Nov. 11	6:00 - 7:30	"Children's Global Issues" Online Interest Forum First Face to Face Meeting http://www.naeyc.org/community	Hilton-Santa Monica	Pat Kostell kostellp@infove.net Edna Ranck Gwen Coe
Friday, Nov. 12	9:00 - 12:00	International Film Festival Co-sponsored with NAEYC	Hilton-Mezzanine 5	Edna Ranck Carol Darcy
Friday, Nov. 12	1:30 - 5:30	History Seminar	Hilton-Santa Monica	Edna Ranck
Friday, Nov. 12	5:00 - 6:30	Global Alliance Reception- NAEYC new initiative	Hilton-Manhattan	
Friday, Nov. 12	6:00 - 7:00	International Coffee Hour Poster Session	Hilton-Palos Verde A/B	Gwen Coe Johnetta Morrison morrisonj@missouri.edu
Join "Children's Global Issues", Online Interest Forum at: http://www.naeyc.org/community (must be an NAEYC member)				



OMEP-USNC CHILDREN'S DAY



November 20th

***A day to honor all children
and to promote a better understanding of
their needs and rights as human beings***



The United States Committee of OMEP
(the World Organization for the
Education of Young Children)
has chosen **November 20th** as

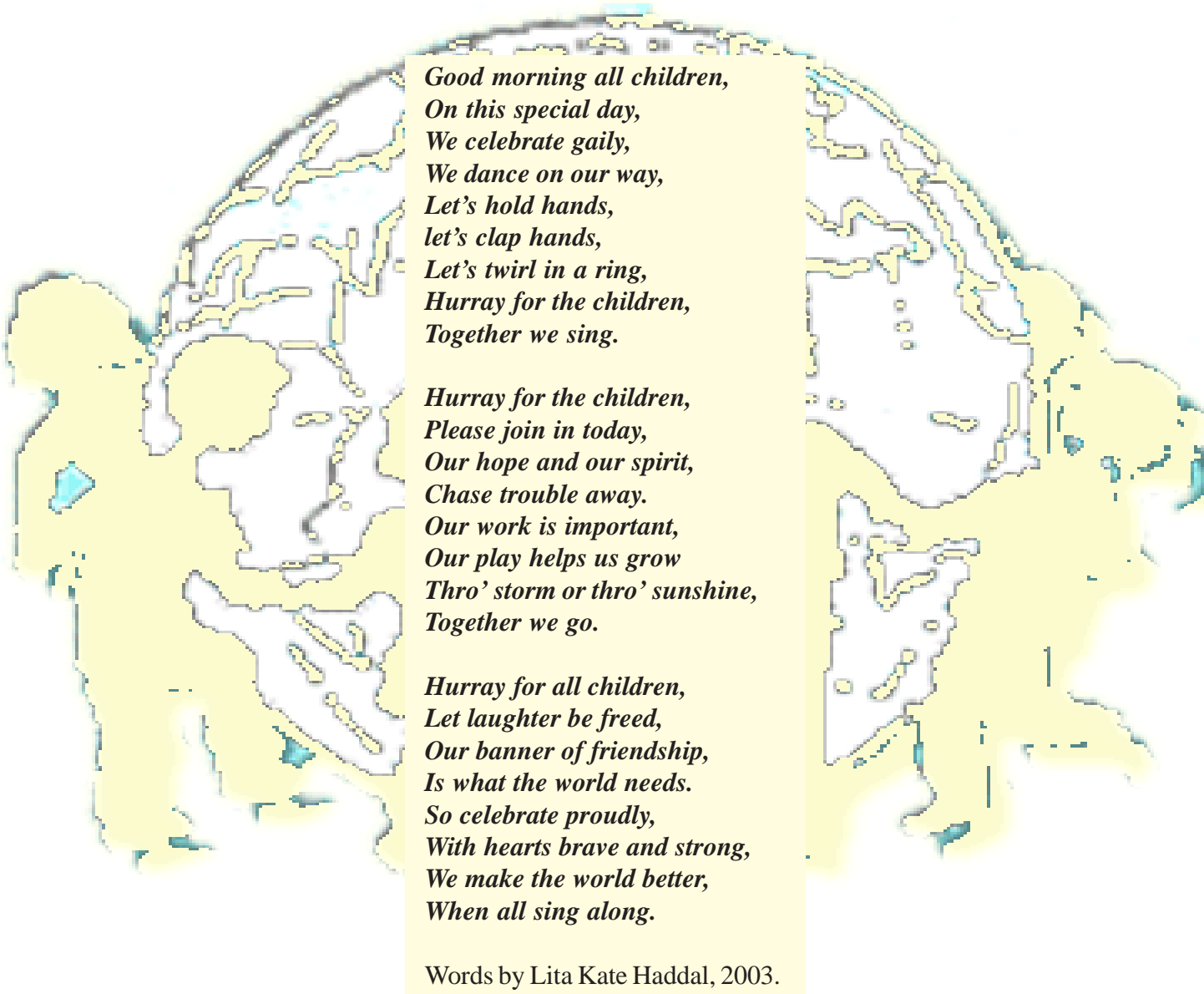
Children's Day

to coincide with the
November 20th, 1989,
signing of the United Nations Convention on the
Rights of the Child.

OMEP is the only international organization working for the education and welfare of all young children, ages 0-8 years locally as well as internationally. Organized in 1948 in Prague, Czechoslovakia, OMEP is an international non-governmental (NGO) organization having consultative status with UNESCO, UNICEF, the UN Commission for Economic and Social Change, and the Council of Europe.

Children's Day Activity Packet available in PDF format at www.omep-usnc.org

Children's Day Song



*Good morning all children,
On this special day,
We celebrate gaily,
We dance on our way,
Let's hold hands,
let's clap hands,
Let's twirl in a ring,
Hurray for the children,
Together we sing.*

*Hurray for the children,
Please join in today,
Our hope and our spirit,
Chase trouble away.
Our work is important,
Our play helps us grow
Thro' storm or thro' sunshine,
Together we go.*

*Hurray for all children,
Let laughter be freed,
Our banner of friendship,
Is what the world needs.
So celebrate proudly,
With hearts brave and strong,
We make the world better,
When all sing along.*

Words by Lita Kate Haddal, 2003.

The United States Committee of OMEP (the World Organization for the Education of Young Children) has chosen November 20th as Children's Day, a day to honor all children and to promote a better understanding of their needs and rights as human beings.

OMEP is the only international organization working for the education and welfare of all young children, ages 0-8 years locally as well as internationally. Organized in 1948 in Prague, Czechoslovakia, OMEP is an international non-governmental (NGO) organization having consultative status with UNESCO, UNICEF, the UN Commission for Economic and Social Change, and the Council of Europe.



Children's

Brightly.

Good - morning all children, O



gai - ly, We dance on our way. Let's



ring, Hur - ray for the children To

OMEP Poster Session
OMEP International Social Conversation Hour
NAEYC 2004 Annual Conference
Anaheim, CA
November 12, 2004



Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline:

October 25, 2004

**Theme: The Young Years: Zero to Three, Preschool and
Primary Care and Education**

This poster session is designed to address the goals listed below. Posters should present information that focuses on these goals. All proposals undergo a blind review process. Proposals will be evaluated on overall quality as well as the degree to which they support the goals of the OMEP poster session.

Goals of the Poster Session:

It is intended that this event will provide opportunities for OMEP members to:

1. Access a wider forum of professionals for sharing and discussing research, curriculum ideas, and teaching practices related to Early Childhood Education.
2. Become more aware of current state, national and international policy issues and how they affect children, families, and communities.
3. Examine replicable strategies for working on issues involving the global welfare of children.
4. Inspire others to make a relevant difference in the lives of Early Childhood educators and the children they serve.

Session Format:

Poster sessions may present research, curriculum highlights, teaching strategies, policy issues, comparative studies, etc. Special attention will be given to presentations focusing on the theme and replicable initiatives.

Posters should be displayed on 2' x 3' poster board with a triangular brace taped to the back to support it in an upright position on a display table. Space in front of the poster may be used for handouts or further display.

Authors' Table—If you have published a book within the last two years and would like to have it displayed at the conference, please send a complete citation of the book so that it can be listed in the program. Authors are expected to provide copies of books for display.

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit in electronic format via e-mail or FAX:

1. Cover page including:
 - A. Title
 - B. Author(s) contact information (names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses).
Authors will be contacted via email.
 - C. Please indicate if authors are members of OMEP.
2. Proposal Description (1 page maximum) including:
 - A. Title
 - B. Goals of the conference to be addressed in this proposed session
 - C. Abstract

Submission Deadline: Proposals must be **RECEIVED BY** October 25, 2004.

Send Proposals to:

E-mail: [**morrisonj@missouri.edu**](mailto:morrisonj@missouri.edu)

FAX: 573-884-5550

Please direct questions via e-mail to: [**morrisonj@missouri.edu**](mailto:morrisonj@missouri.edu)

The OMEP Poster Session and International Conversation Hour will be held on Friday, November 12, 2004, 6:00-7:00 p.m. in the Palos Verde rooms A/B, 4th floor of the Anaheim Hilton Hotel.

On behalf of OMEP-USNC,

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Gift Ideas

The season of gift giving approaches. You may choose to celebrate children in your gift choices. Here are some suggestions you might find helpful.

Books

Dream Me Home Safely: Writers on Growing Up in America. Tells the story of the many ways children make a place in their family and in the world. Several recognized writers share "the people, places, and ideas that made them who they are today and challenge us to consider how our children will remember their own childhoods." A publication commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Children's Defense Fund. Foreword by Marian Wright Edelman. \$13.00. Available at www.childrensdefense.org. Phone: 202 628-8787.

The World According to Mr. Rogers: Important Things to Remember. "Culled from Fred Rogers' speeches, program transcripts, books, letters, and interviews, along with some of his never-before-published writings, this touching book is a testament to the legacy of a man who served and continues to serve as a role model to millions." From Family Communications. \$17. Available at www.naeyc.org or phone 1-866-623-9248.

Greeting Cards

available at www.childrensdefense.org. Phone: 202 628-8787.

Universal Children. Greeting: Peace, Justice, Tolerance, Joy, Love. Illustrated, multicolor. 4.25 x 5. Price: \$ 15.00.

Shining Faces of Children. Greeting: Leave No Child Behind. Illustrated, multicolor. 4.25 x 5. Price: \$ 15.00.

A World of Children. Greeting: Peace on Earth Good Will to All! Illustrated, multicolor. 4.25 x 5. Price: \$ 15.00.

Stand For Children. Greeting: Stand For Children during this holiday season and throughout the year. Illustrated, multicolor. 4.25 x 5. Price: \$ 15.00.

Note Cards. Blank note cards feature lovely sepia-toned images of children by photographer Karen Hudson. All proceeds from these cards support the work of the Black Community Crusade for Children (BCCC). Set of 10 includes envelopes. 6.25 x 4.5. Price: \$ 12.00

Music CD's

A Child's Celebration of the World. Children's songs from around the world. \$15.95 from www.AfterSchoolCatalog.com or phone 1-800-410-8780.

Universe of Song. Well-known children's songs in both Spanish and English. \$15.95 from www.AfterSchoolCatalog.com or phone 1-800-410-8780.

Posters

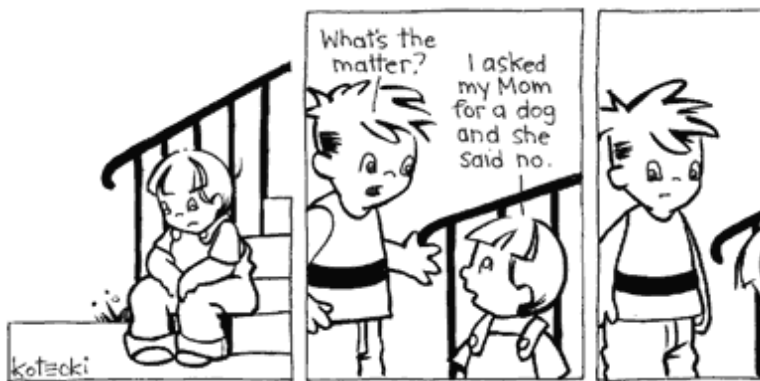
Colorful laminated posters with positive messages for children, such as, "Hands are not for hitting", "Words are not for hurting", "You're smarter than you think", "Bully-free zone" and "Don't be a hot head, Stay cool". \$6.95. Free Spirit Publications at www.freespirit.com. Phone: 1-800-735-7323.

Inexpensive, evocative posters (in the \$6 price range). Children's Defense Fund at (202)628-8787 or from the CDF webstore at: www.childrensdefense.org

NAEYC has a selection of posters (\$6) including a series of colorful illustrations of literacy rich classrooms and family child care homes and the poster "Children's Opportunities—Our Responsibilities" (39" x 13") featuring many faces of ethnically diverse children at: www.naeyc.org or phone 1-866-623-9248.

Calendars

Calendar of Black Children, \$12 . Contact the Nat'l Black Child Development Institute at <http://www.nbcdi.org/store/calendars.asp>, or phone (202) 833-2220 or 1-800-556-2234.



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Community Playthings 2005 Calendar.
Calendar is often free at NAEYC conference booth. Phone 1-800-777-4244 or visit www.CommunityPlaythings.com

Totline's *Little Charts: My Daily Calendar*. \$3.99. Plan chores, record daily tasks and benchmark goals met. Each 5 1/4" x 6" chart contains enough room for the student's name, the chart's purpose, and 20 coordinated chart stickers. 36 charts per package. Find it at <http://early-childhood-educators.teacherspecialty.com/products/0742406652.php>

Visit the website www.calendars.com for a wide selection of calendars on many topics. Prices range from \$8-20 dollars. Look for the *Family Organizer: 2005 Deluxe Calendar*, a spiral-bound 16-month wall calendar with extra large squares, or *Mom's Plan-It: 2005 Magnetic Calendar*, with magnetic hanger for easy refrigerator placement.

The Juggling Act Keep Track Calendar for Kids, \$9.95. Undated, ready to fill in and start anytime during the year, it includes stickers that identify important things to remember, i.e., music lessons, school events, assignment due dates, practices, and more. Free Spirit Publishing at www.freespirit.com or phone 1-800-735-7323.

For a free e-calendar with inviting cartoon images by our OMEP cartoonist, Jason Kotecki, go to <http://www.kimandjason.com/pages/gallery/ecalendar/index.html>

Nuns Having Fun 2005 Calendar. The black-and-white and sepia images are from the 1950s and 1960s and show the unexpected lighter side of the often stern-looking sisters and teachers of the past. \$11.95 + free shipping. Available at: <http://www.culturalcatholic.com/nunscalendar.htm> and Cultural Catholic LLC, P. O. Box 634, New London, NH 03257-0634.

Attitude In a Jar for Kids. \$13.95. A different way to mark each of day of the year. Inside this colorful screwtop jar, are 365 “attitude slips” designed to encourage young people to feel good about themselves and claim a positive, hopeful attitude. Examples of the daily affirmations are “Happiness is what’s in your heart, not what you own”, “Gossip runs down more people than automobiles”, “Laughter softens life’s rough edges.” Also available, *Character in a Jar* and *Riddles in a Jar* from www.freespirit.com or phone 1-800-735-7323

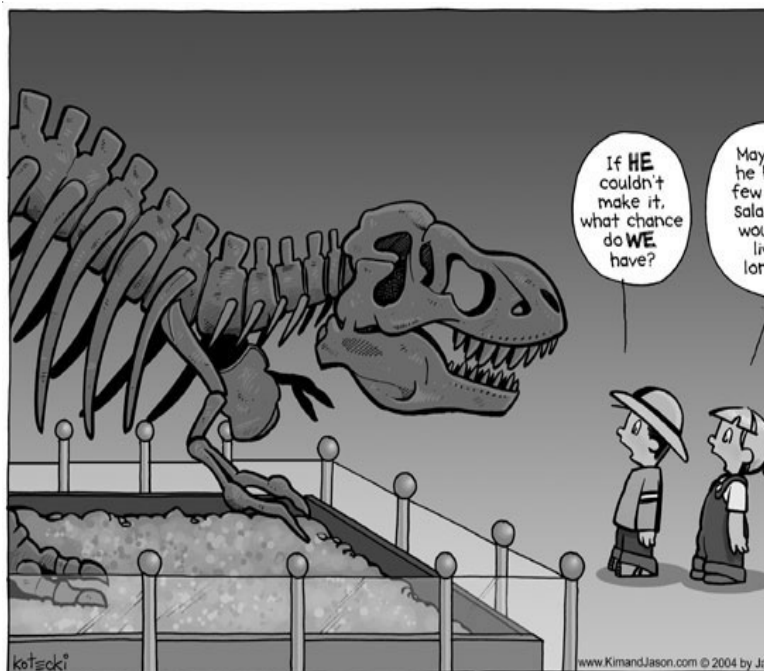
Free lunar tables wall calendar available at:
<http://www.primetimes2.com/pages/9-free-primetimes.html> See when the various phases of the moon will appear which may predict the best time to fish!

More

Dark blue backpack/tote which proudly proclaims in cheery sunshine-yellow type the belief that “the early years are learning years.” Front and side outer packets. \$16. Available at www.naeyc.org or phone 1-866-623-9248.

Recent education journals have dealt extensively with international children's issues. They are recommended reading for OMEP members. You will find many of the articles are authored by our own knowledgeable OMEP members.

- September 2004, *Beyond the Journal*. The new on-line publication free at the NAEYC website: www.naeyc.org
- September 2004, *Young Children*
- Fall 2004, ACEI *Childhood Education* International Focus Issue 2004



Membership Boosting Ideas

"Hello, This is Your Alumni Association Calling..."

Next time you hear that message, stipulate how you want a portion of your donation spent. Specify that \$35 of it should go to the education department of your alumni institution for membership in OMEP. That's right, OMEP has a group membership category that would bring the OMEP-USNC newsletter, the OMEP International Journal, and the Directory of Members to faculty and students at your Alma Mater. Your gift will be appreciated by many!

"On a whim, I sent a check for \$23.50 to my alumni association when they called to solicit a donation. I stipulated that it go to the rowing team. Soon I received a call from the campus athletic department. They thanked me for the money but they did not have a rowing program and were not going to have one in the future. "But the campus is surrounded by water. It's perfect!" I pleaded. "Sorry", was the answer followed by the question of what I wanted done with my check. "Use it for a subscription to U.S. Rowing magazine," I said. And that was what was done.

Yesterday, five years later, I attended my Alma Mater's homecoming parade. In my best coxswain voice, I hollered, "Go crew!, to a joyful group of ten athletes surrounding a shell bearing the sign "Winona State University Rowing Team". I was rewarded by a shower of candy.

One little nudge, however small, truly made a difference!"

-Lita Haddal

Great Lakes Region 2

Membership Renewals—A Change!

Historically, renewal notices were sent out in January. In order to better serve our membership and to ensure that all members receive the International Journal in a timely fashion, first renewal notices will be mailed in October this year with second notices in December. We are hoping to have all memberships renewed by December 31 for the next year (2005).

If, as a current member, you paid dues in April—that was for 2004—and the renewal may seem to be coming a bit too soon for you. We apologize for any inconvenience and hope you will help us through this transition by renewing promptly. We have also regret that we need to make adjustment to some of our dues. The new International Journal, published in Sweden, has increased printing and mailing costs. In order to cover those costs we have made a slight increase in one or two categories of membership.

Regular memberships *with a journal* remain \$45.00 per year.

Group, emeriti, and student memberships *with a journal* are now \$40.00 per year.

All membership groups *without a journal* for \$20.00 a year.

The dues entitle members to the three newsletters and support the work of the organization.

New Member Discount

Encourage new members to join at reduced rates!

Regular memberships *with a journal* \$40.00 per year.

Group, emeriti, and student memberships *with a journal* \$35.00 per year.

All memberships *without a journal* for \$15.00 a year.



OMEP - U.S. National Committee

A Unit of Organization Mondiale pour l'Education Préscolaire

World Organization for Early Childhood Education

Postage

Mailing Address

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a mailing address.

Publication Information

A background graphic featuring a globe with yellow and blue outlines. In the foreground, there are yellow silhouettes of children holding hands in a circle.

USNC Newsletter is published three times a year by the publications committee of OMEP-USNC. Deadlines for Submissions are May 1, August 1, and December 1. The committee encourages all members to submit a summary of events, research, or activities in which you have been involved as advocates of the well being of the children in the world. Electronically saved Word or WordPerfect files are preferred. Send them as attachments to the editor.

Newsletter Editor:

Lita Haddal

**WI Child Care Information
Center**

**Send all submissions and
correspondence to**

lita.haddal@dpi.state.wi.us